



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-C-M

November 15, 2011

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2011-01590-KMN  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

**BENEFICIAL USE SITE FOR DREDGE MATERIAL,  
ROUND ISLAND, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) and Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**  
**Attention: Mr. George Ramseur, Jr**  
**1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 501**  
**Biloxi, Mississippi 39530**

**LOCATION OF WORK: Mississippi Sound, Round Island, HUC 317009, USGS 1:25K Quad Name: MS-Pascagoula South, Section 28, Township 9 South, Range 6 West; Latitude 30 ° 17' 30" N; Longitude 88 ° 34' 45" W; Mississippi Sound, near Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi.**

**WORK DESCRIPTION: The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) is proposing to create an approximately 800-acre site around all sides of Round Island as a Beneficial Use Site. The proposed project would create approximately 800 acres of coastal flats, uplands and tidal marsh habitat along the -3 and -4 mean lower low water (MLLW) contours found around Round Island (Figure 5). The proposed project would take place over the next 10 years using beneficial use material obtained from commercial, private and public dredging projects. The MDMR is proposing to use several different placement techniques in order to capture acceptable dredged material at the project site. Wave Attenuation Structures (WAS) are being proposed for placement around the footprint of the project site in order to minimize the wave action in relation to the existing island and the newly proposed material placement areas. The project would be constructed in phases as material and funding become available for construction.**

**The initial phase (Phase I) is being proposed along the south eastern area of Round Island and would contain approximately 200 acres of upland and marsh habitat. Phase I would include the construction of a WAS which would extend from the southwestern end of Round Island and run in a south to southeastern direction. The WAS would then be placed in a northeasterly direction and wrap around to**

the northwest creating a "C" shaped footprint (Figure 9). Techniques used for placement of dredged material into the site would depend upon the types of material obtained for construction. Upon completion, the Phase I site would be able to contain approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of dredged material.

Additional phases would occur as material becomes available. Techniques used for placement of materials would be implemented based upon the types of material available for placement at the site. Upland restoration could be implemented in future phases if materials suitable for stacking to higher elevations could be obtained. These upland areas could provide flats for shorebird habitat and/or upland and maritime forest habitats. The purpose of these phases would be to increase upland and marsh habitat around the remaining portion of Round Island.

The WAS could be constructed using rock, engineered oyster structures, side cast sand dikes or a combination of these engineering methods. Type of structures chosen and placement of the structures for each phase would be based upon existing forces from wave action and additional stressors causing erosion in the proposed project area. The WAS would be designed to include 10-foot gaps in the structure to allow for passage of fish and other organisms.

Sandy grained material could be used to create mound systems. The mound systems would be put into place using hydraulic pumping. Height and width of the mounds would vary based upon the consistency of the material placed at the site. Width and slope of mound construction would also be influenced by a variety of site factors including water depths and tide conditions.

Fine grained silts and clays could be accommodated by creating containment areas. The containment areas could be created by dredging on-site sand from the interior portion of the containment area and side casting it in order to create ring dikes. Finer grain materials could then be placed into these containment areas. Upon settling of additional materials could be placed in these areas until the target height has been obtained.

An existing pipeline is located to the south of Round Island. Any issues regarding possible over lap of Phase I and any future phases would be coordinated with the pipeline right-of-way department in order to resolve any issues related to the overlap prior to the finalization of project design. The project could be designed to avoid the pipeline and right-of-way if conditions warrant avoidance.

Currently dredging permits are subject to Mississippi Code §49-27-61 which requires beneficial use of dredged material. The proposed project would provide a location for placement of dredged material deemed suitable by the MDMR for Beneficial Use.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The subject property is an approximately 45-acre island. The island is currently composed of forested uplands with a fringe of beach and no significant marsh. Much of the remaining island is under private ownership except for a portion on the southern tip which is owned by the City of Pascagoula.

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**PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED:** The overall project purpose is to create approximately 800 acres of coastal flats, uplands and tidal marsh habitat around Round Island. Round Island is one of two near shore islands remaining in Coastal Mississippi. Round Island is a near shore remnant of the mainland. Round Island likely covered about 1,000 acres as recently as 500 years ago. In 1850, Round Island was documented as being approximately 132 acres. Round Island has lost a significant amount of land due to erosion as well as submersion. Proposed work would build largely on its historical footprint. It is estimated that two or three more major tropical storms could eliminate the remaining 45 acres of island. Establishment of coastal flats, uplands, and tidal marsh habitat around the island could reduce the effects currently eroding the remaining island. It could also restore coastal systems critical to fisheries and migratory birds. Marsh systems have been shown to provide protection of areas from hurricanes and associated tidal surge. The proposed marsh system could provide protection to Round Island and to the mainland area located to the north.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The alternate use of the material would be to place it on uplands located on the project site and not use it for Beneficial Use which would provide the restoration of tidal marsh habitat in the vicinity of the project impact.

Two additional sites in the vicinity are available for beneficial use material; however, their capacities are small in size and would not be able to hold large amounts of dredged material.

**WATER QUALITY REVIEW:** The MDMR has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act and upon completion of the required advertising; a determination relative to certification will be made.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT:** The MDMR has applied for certification from the State that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. A determination relative to consistency will be made by the MDMR.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists 18 endangered, threatened or candidate species as occurring or potentially occurring in Jackson County. The Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser*) is listed as threatened. Based upon preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, a preliminary determination has been made that these activities designated for the project site may affect but not likely to adversely affect, listed or endangered species or their critical habitat. Notification to the USFWS will be furnished via this Public Notice.

The Mobile District has determined that the proposed action would not adversely impact Essential Fish Habitat or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to effect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. Although the extent of federal control and

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responsibility for these considerations are confined to the limits of the permit area for this particular project, the potential indirect effects that may occur to historic properties as a result of this undertaking are also being considered. At this time, given the history of the dredge material Beneficial Use Site no impacts to any known cultural or historic properties are expected. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer (MDAH), Federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

Historic architectural or archaeological investigations may be necessary to ascertain the existence of such resources. Efforts will be made through the consultation process to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to significant cultural and historic properties that may occur as a result of this undertaking. The District Commander remains the final decision authority.

**COMMENTS:** This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources.

The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those is conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

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Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2011-01590-KMN** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Attention: Ms. Kaaren M. Neumann, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Attention: Ms. Florance Watson, P.E., Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225 and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Attention: Mr. James Davis, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 501, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

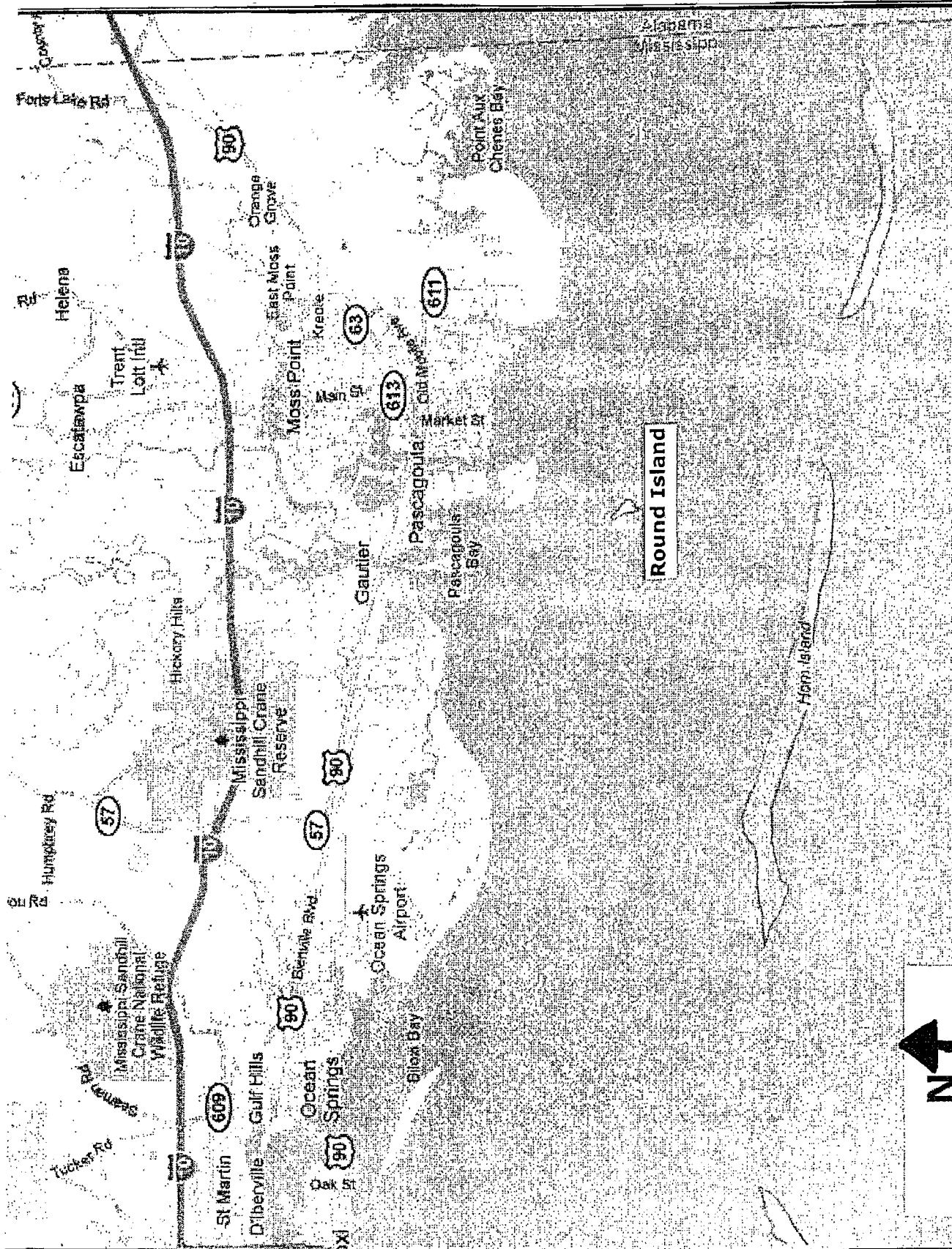
Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at **kaaren.m.neumann@usace.army.mil** or phone number **(228) 523-4024**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at: [www.sam.usace.army.mil/rd/reg](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/rd/reg) and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Enclosures

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



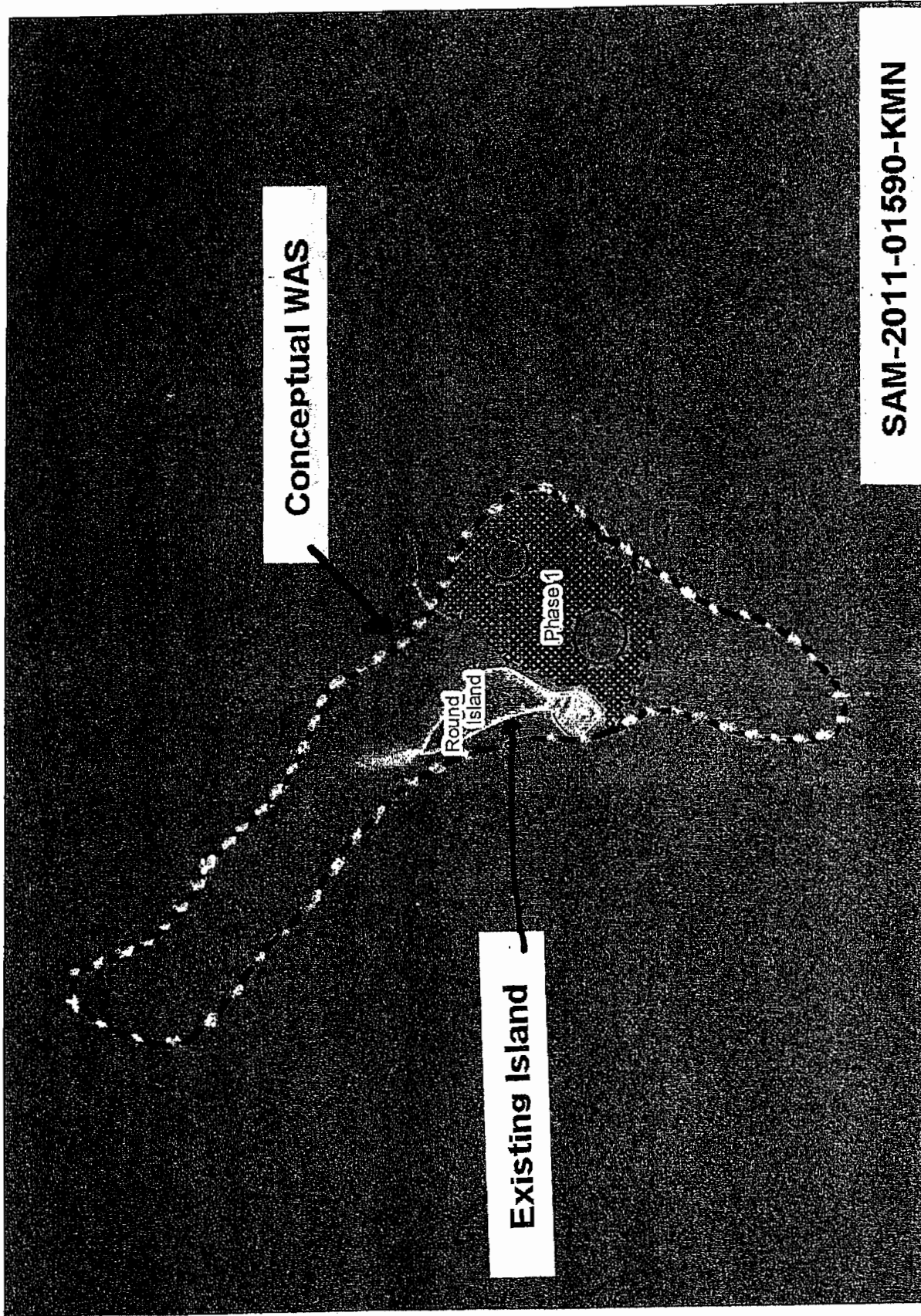
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VICINITY MAP

FIGURE 1

Map data ©2011





Conceptual WAS

Existing Island

Round Island

Phase 1

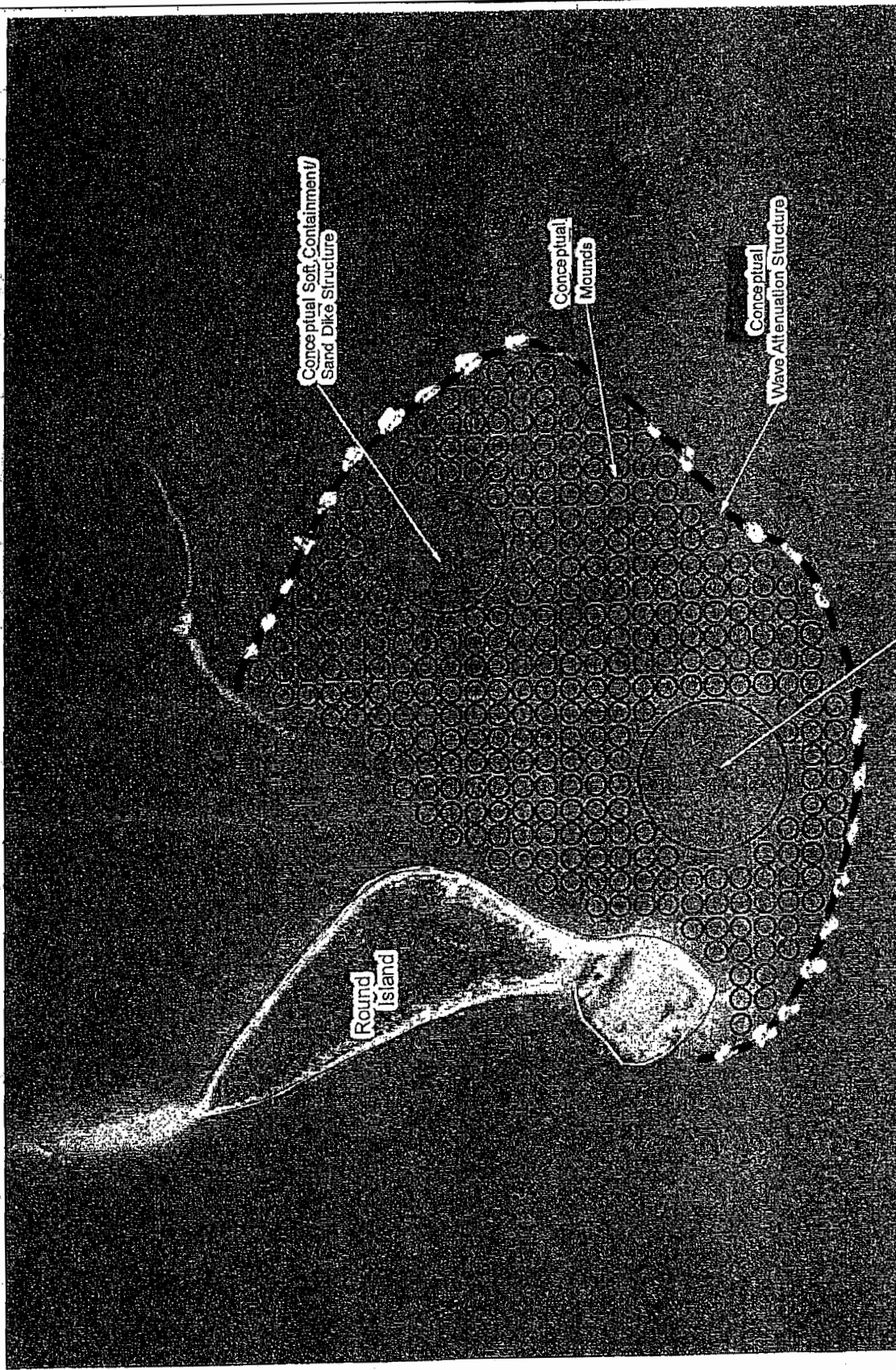
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Approximate Scale

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FIGURE 2

Total Project Footprint with  
WAS Alignment



**PHASE 1 - Conceptual Drawing**

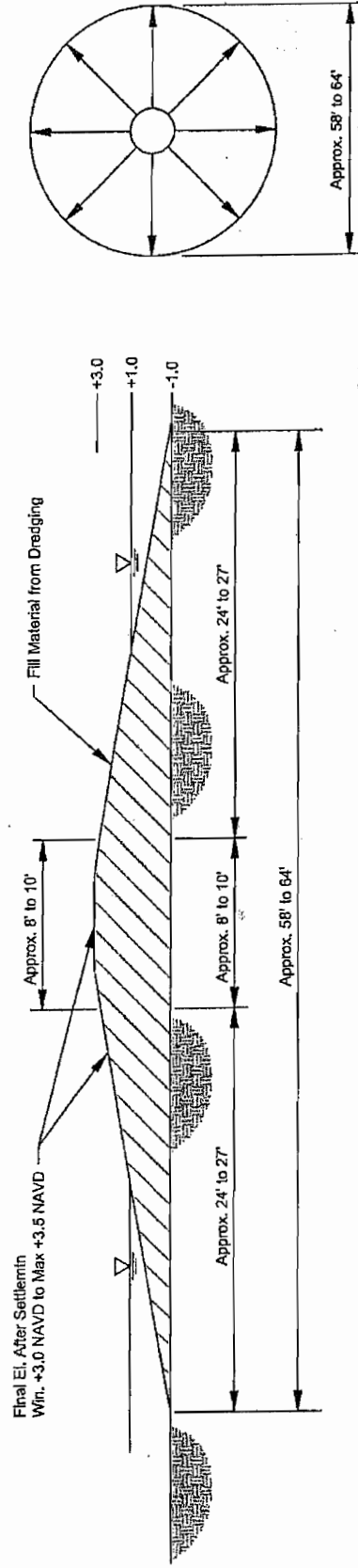
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Approximate Scale

**FIGURE 3**

Proposed Project with Mounds, Sidesas  
Sand Dikes and Planned Initial WAS

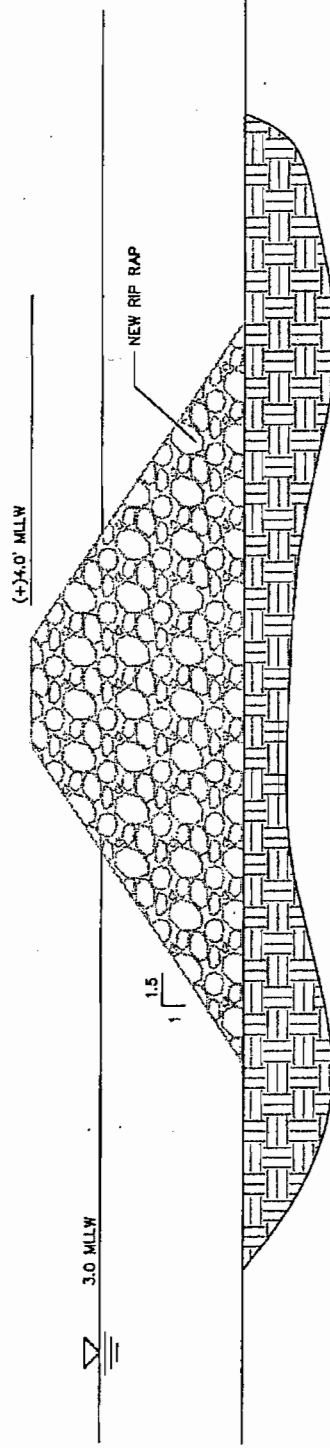
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**FIGURE 4**  
Mound Section (Typ.)



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**FIGURE 5**  
Typical Section Rip Rap